

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /084 W

----- 124247

R 190645 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3391

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: MRS. NGO BA THANH MOVED TO BIEN HOA REFORMATORY

REF: SAIGON 9055

1. INDEPENDENT DAILY TIA SANG REPORTED BRIEFLY JUNE 15 THAT MRS. NGO BA THANH HAD BEEN MOVED FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE HOSPITAL IN SAIGON TO THE BIEN HOA REFORMATORY. ( SHE HAD BEEN CONFINED AT BIEN HOA, 20 MILES FROM SAIGON, BEFORE SHE BEGAN HER HUNGER STRIKE IN MID- APRIL.)

2. MRS. THANH'S HUSBAND TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 16 THAT THE MOVE TOOK PLACE JUNE 13. ACCORDING TO HIM, GVN OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN NO EXPLANATION FOR THE MOVE, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT " THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR" HAD ORDERED IT.

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3. MRS. THANH'S HUSBAND SAID THAT CONTRARY TO THE NEWS REPORT, WHICH SAID SHE IS " COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HER ILLNESS", SHE CONTINUES HER HUNGER STRIKE AND IS " VERY WEAK". HE WAS VAGUE ON THE DETAILS OF HER PHYSICAL CONDITION, TREATMENT AND THE WAY SHE WAS TRANSFERRED. THE EMBASSY OFFICER GATHERED, HOWEVER, THAT SHE HAS RECOVERED SOMEWHAT FROM THE SERIOUS DEHYDRATION SHE SUFFERED EARLIER AND IS RECEIVING INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS. BOTH MRS. THANH'S HUSBAND AND HER ATTORNEY, SENATOR VU VAN MAU, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT HER AT BIEN HOA. HER HUSBAND SAID THAT AT HIS VISIT THE MORNING OF JUNE 16 THE REFORMATORY DIRECTOR COMPLAINED THAT BIEN HOA DOES NOT HAVE THE FACILITIES TO CARE FOR MRS. THANH AND THAT HE, THE DIRECTOR, WILL ASK MOI TO RETURN HER TO THE POLICE HOSPITAL IN SAIGON.

4. SENATOR MAU TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 18 THAT MRS. THANH HAD ACTUALLY ENDED HER HUNGER STRIKE AT THE POLICE HOSPITAL ( HE DID NOT SAY WHEN) BUT HAD RENEWED IT AFTER SHE WAS SHIFTED TO BIEN HOA. HE SAID THAT WHEN HE VISITED HER THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 16 HE TRIED TO TALK HER INTO GIVING UP THE STRIKE. HE BASED HIS APPEAL ON GROUNDS THAT HE NEEDED A " FEW DAYS" TO WRITE TO PRIME MINISTER KHIEM ASKING THE GVN TO GRANT HER A PASSPORT TO GO TO THE US AND TAKE UP COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY' S OFFER TO BE A VISITING SCHOLAR. MAU SAID HE IS NOT SURE HE CONVINCED HER TO RESUME EATING AND WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL HER HUSBAND NEXT SEES HER.

5. MAU SAID THAT IN HIS LETTER TO KHIEM, HE WILL MENTION THE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH THE CHARGE JUNE 15, IN WHICH THE CHARGE SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD ACCEPT MRS. THANH' S APPLICATION FOR A VISA IF SHE COULD PRESENT A VALID PASSPORT AND GVN EXIT VISA. THE CHARGE MADE IT CLEAR TO MAU THAT THE EMBASSY COULD NOT INTERVENE TO SECURE HER RELEASE OR HER PASSPORT. MAU PROMISED TO SEND THE EMBASSY A COPY OF HIS LETTER TO KHIEM.

WHITEHOUSE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** MRS. NGO BA THANH MOVED TO BIEN HOA REFORMATORY  
**TAGS:** PINT  
**To:** BANGKOK  
BIEN HOA  
CAN THO  
CINCPAC  
DANANG  
EA  
JEC PARIS

NHA TRANG  
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